A SISTER TERRITORY.

Gold Will Not be Alaska's Main Industry.

A suggestion that Alaska could be made to support a population of 3,000,000 and to become independent of the outer world for the provisions required to feed them sounds strange; yet this is the conclusion reached by Mr. Georgeson, of Sitka, special agent of the Department of Agriculture, after much investigation and several years of experimentation in the growing of crops in various parts of that immense and little known territory. The popular conception that the soil of the Yukon Valley is never thawed more than a few inches deep appears to be all wrong. A traveler in summer time might go from the mouth of the great river which gives the region its name up to its source without discovering a trace of snow. The banks of the stream are clothed with forests, and such delicacies as wild raspberries, currants, and cranberries grow in profusion. The grass grows man-high, and Mr. Georgeson, desiring to photograph some native cattle, was surprised at their disappearance in the tall hay into which they had been driven to stand for their portraits.

There are many places in Alaska, however, where the conditions are far more favorable for farming than in the Yukon Valley. Cattle are raised at every considerable settlement except Nome, and fine barley, oats and wheat of nearby growth have been exhibited by the Dawson Chamber of Commerce; but Mr. Georgeson mentions thirty places on the coast and in the interior of Alaska where practically all the cereals of the temperate zone, most of the vegetables, and a considerable variety of garden flowers have been grown with much success for several years. At Kokiak sheep and Angora goats have been kept for many seasons, requiring but little food, and shelter only during an occasional winter storm. It is pointed out that agriculture flourishes in Finland (Russia), and that the Alaskan climate of the localities referred to is better than that of the Grand Duchy; the summers are warmer, and the area of possible cultivation is larger.

Since the rural population of Finland exceeds 2,300,000, the estimate that the favored regions of Alaska could furnish homesteads for 200,000 families would seem reasonable. The fishing and mining industries when fully developed will require the labor of many thousands, and a home market for the product of future Alaskan farmers would thus be provided. Indeed, the growth to full stature of these industries would appear to be dependent on the development of the agricultural resources of the territory and a supply of food at reasonable prices. That our "Siberia" would ever become a home for white men was not even dreamed of by the most optimistic.

There are more alluring regions in this world, to be sure; but the type of men who redeemed our Great West is not extinct, and the possibility of securing independence and a competence is an attraction that may encourage pioneers to brave the rigors of a subarctic climate. Temperatures ranging about 70 degrees below zero will appal softlings, but not the kind of persons who hewed clearings and plowed their first furrows with rifles in their hands and did not know when they left their rude log cabins in the morning whether they would find their wives and bairns alive in the evening.

The prospect that Alaska has the making of a State should attract more attention to the needs of the Territory than has hitherto been given them. At present settlers can obtain title to land only at prohibitive cost. Government land offices are few and far between; moreover, the limit set by the homestead law upon the quantity of land that may be taken is too circumscribed. Twice the allotment permitted, or 320 acres, is the least acreage needed by a settler in order to make farming a success, the growing season being very much shorter than in lower latitudes, and cattle raising being an indispensable adjunct to the raising of crops. These and many other matters require consideration and legislative action before the settlement of the favored spots of Alaska can even be begun.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY.

Marvelous Growth of Germany's Trade in Last Century.

In eight years the exports of Germany have increased from $772,200,000 to $1,131,200,000, a gain of 47 per cent. At the same time the imports have practically kept pace with the exports, gaining 45 per cent., from $983,900,000 to $1,438,200,000. The result is that of the $18,000,000,000 of commerce done by all the nations Germany's share today is 10.8 per cent., against 18.3 per cent. by Great Britain and only 9.7 per cent. by the United States.

This improvement in Germany's trade has been very widely distributed among the countries of the world. In the eight years from 1893 to 1900 the gain in her exports to her chief rival, Great Britain, has been 32 per cent. She has added 52 per cent. to her exports to Switzerland, 94 per cent to exports to Norway and Sweeden, and 137 per cent to those to Russia. To British India she sent an additional 39 per cent, and to the rest of Asia 66 per cent more than eight years ago. Her export trade to Australia has advanced 116 per cent, and she sends 98 per cent more goods to Africa.

A primary requisite to German mastery has been the careful study of the needs and whims of the customer. This study is carried on both at home and abroad. The consular system has been remodeled throughout. So long as Germany's chief interests were agricultural her consular service continued along the time-honored lines. Consuls were educated as lawyers and diplomats. But such men were at fault when information was wanted as to markets and trade conditions. Consulates have been strengthened by one or more commercial attaches who give their entire attention to this field. In some cases the innovation is being practised of abolishing permanent consuls altogether. In their stead the government appoints to act as consuls experienced and capable merchants whose training fits them for this work.

These consuls make systematic reports to the government on all sorts of practical topics. They note the goods supplied by their own and other nations, they give minute instructions as to packing and handling articles, they suggest special commodities for which there is a demand, or for which a demand may be created, they keep an eye on the methods and schemes of merchants of rival nations. They answer queries, warn against mistakes, suggest openings. They are spies in the enemy's country. Such at least is the theory of the German consular service, and in practice it approaches very closely to this ideal. An example in point is the advice recently given by consuls stationed in the United States, that German business men should use the typewriter in addressing our merchants.

Trade organizations have also been formed to do a work similar to that of the consuls, and supplementary to the government service. Industrial commissions have been sent to South American states, to Mexico, China, Japan, to South Africa—in short, to any people among whom trade extension is probable. These commissions report on the conditions, needs, and demands of the people.

Side Lights.

Side Lights for the month of June shows an improvement over all previous editions. The contents are well written and well edited and full of interesting information.

How to Avoid Trouble.

Now is the time to provide yourself and family with a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It is almost certain to be needed before the summer is over, and if procured now may save you a trip to town in the night or in your busiest season. It is everywhere admitted to be the most successful medicine in use for bowel complaints, both for children and adults. No family can afford to be without it. For sale by the Hilo Drug Co. *